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21 October 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Senator D'Amato (R/NY) Briefing

On Monday, 19 October 1981, [] and [] briefed Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato (R/NY) on the circumstances surrounding the assassination of President Sadat and the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II. The briefing had been requested by the Senator's staff after the Senator made public statements alleging a KGB role in both incidents. [] Director of Global Intelligence and [] of OLC attended the briefing, as did one staff assistant to Senator D'Amato and George Murphy who works for Senator Baker as custodian of the briefing room.

[] began the discussion by briefly tracing the movements and connections of convicted would-be assassin Ali Agca. Senator D'Amato asked several questions about any putative Soviet role in the incident and was told there was none. The Senator then constructed a hypothesis in which Soviet intelligence officers recruited Agca to kill the Pope using third parties so their role would not be discovered. The Senator stated that he had heard that the Pope had sent a letter to Soviet authorities stating that in case of a Soviet invasion of Poland, the Pope would fly to Warsaw. Senator D'Amato further stated that the Soviets had tried to kill the Pope to forestall such an event.

[] but may have received help from Turks living in Western Europe. [] failed to sway Senator D'Amato from his belief that the KGB had tried to kill the Pope.

[] presented the Sadat assassination case, and told the Senator that to date [] had any evidence that the Sadat case involved agents of other foreign

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powers, but that in the past the Libyans had targeted Sadat. This turned the conversation into a general discussion about Libya's transgressions. There were no follow-up questions by the Senator on a Soviet role in the Sadat case. The briefing ended with the Senator asking a series of general questions on Middle Eastern demographics and politics.

From the lack of follow-up questions on the Sadat case, it appears that the Senator is satisfied that there was no Soviet role in that case. He remains firmly convinced that Ali Agca was an asset of Soviet intelligence when he tried to kill the Pope.

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